



## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Transportation Commission

**FROM:** Franz Loewenherz, Senior Transportation Planner, 425-452-4077

**SUBJECT:** Eastgate/I-90 Land Use and Transportation Project Status Report

**DATE:** October 13, 2011

*This is an information item; no action is required at this time.*

In October, 2010 Council appointed a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to oversee the preparation of a land use and transportation plan for the Eastgate/I-90 commercial corridor, to guide its future development to the year 2030. The CAC has been meeting monthly since November, 2010, and is now engaged in the development of a preliminary preferred alternative for that corridor. At your October 13 meeting, staff will provide the Transportation Commission with an update on this project.

### BACKGROUND

The Eastgate/I-90 corridor is one of Bellevue's five major employment centers, housing approximately 24,000 employees. In February 2010 Council authorized the commencement of the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use and Transportation Project (<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastgate-corridor.htm>). The purpose of this project is to develop a plan to guide development in the corridor to the year 2030, to ensure the continued vitality of the corridor over the long term. The project is co-managed by the Planning & Community Development and Transportation departments.

Staff began preparing for this project in late 2009, and used much of 2010 to prepare background materials and engage with stakeholders and the broader community through a variety of means, including an online survey, open houses, community association presentations, and one-on-one interviews. By the time the Citizen Advisory Committee was appointed in October, 2010, sufficient background information was available to allow the CAC to quickly come up to speed on the project.

The CAC includes members of City Boards and Commissions (including Transportation Commissioner Francois Larrivee, who is one of the CAC co-chairs), and representatives from the study area and surrounding area. The mission of this group is to advise and make recommendations to the City Council on the project. Following the completion of the CAC's work (anticipated in January 2012), the Planning Commission will help develop and review any Comprehensive Plan or Land Use Code changes needed to implement the CAC's recommendation. The Transportation Commission will be asked to review any proposed transportation improvements and transportation policies that would be part of any Comprehensive Plan amendment to implement the CAC's recommendations.

### RECENT ACTIVITIES

At our last briefing to the Transportation Commission on May 12, 2011, staff provided an update on discussions preceding CAC approval (on June 16) of one "no action" and three "action" land use and transportation alternatives. These draft alternatives captured a range of ideas that allowed staff and the consultant team to assess tradeoffs between choices over the CAC's summer recess during July and August.

The Evaluation Report ([http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/Draft\\_report\\_and\\_Action\\_plans.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/Draft_report_and_Action_plans.pdf)) includes both a quantitative and qualitative appraisal of the strengths and weaknesses of the “no action” and three “action” land use and transportation alternatives. The analysis is organized around the nine topical areas addressed by the Evaluation Criteria adopted by the CAC in March, 2011, and as informed by the Council Principles approved by Council in February, 2010.

At its September 8 meeting, staff presented the CAC with an assessment of the draft land use and transportation alternatives (Attachment A - [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/090811\\_CAC\\_Final.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/090811_CAC_Final.pdf)). The overall key findings from this assessment are:

- None of the Action alternatives is fatally flawed
- Transportation network can function under any alternative; improvements still warranted at existing chokepoints
- Minor difference among alternatives in terms of environmental consequences due to developed nature of corridor
- All Action alternatives include some potentially significant expenses
- All Action alternatives both necessitate and provide opportunity for partnerships with other agencies/institutions
- Many individual enhancements identified can be applied to any alternative

While this analysis evaluates the alternatives in their current form, it will provide a basis for the CAC to draw discrete elements from multiple alternatives and blend them into a new preferred alternative.

## **NEXT STEPS**

By the time the Transportation Commission receives the staff update on October 13, the CAC will have met two more times – on September 29 and October 6. At its next series of meetings the CAC will begin to develop a preliminary preferred alternative that will be shared with the public on October 18 from 4 to 6 PM (at the Robinswood House Cabana: 2430 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE). Future CAC meeting dates are currently set for November 3, December 1, and January 5. At the conclusion of this planning process, the CAC will transmit a preferred land use vision and a set of transportation strategies to the City Council that is consistent with and help to implement the land use vision.

## **ENCLOSED**

A. September 8, 2011 Presentation Slides to Citizen Advisory Committee